

Louisville Sustainability Summit Work Group Summary

January 17 and 18, 2014

Louisville Metro [Office of Sustainability](#) co-hosted the city's first Sustainability Summit with the [Louisville Sustainability Council](#) and the [Louisville Zoo](#) on January 17 and 18, 2014. Approximately 175 people attended each day of the Summit. Attendees participated in one of five Action Team work groups: Community Engagement, Green Building and Green Infrastructure, Green Economy, Transportation, and Tree Canopy and Urban Heat Island. Outcomes from each group are listed below.

Community Engagement - The Community Engagement Action Team sought to engage more citizens in sustainability activities. Specifically, the Team hopes to:

- Coordinate an education initiative in every neighborhood, offering templates for daily living, and incentives or savings for measurable deeds
- Integrate sustainability into the Derby Festival, engaging the whole city and its visitors

Green Building and Green Infrastructure - The Green Building and Green Infrastructure Action Team developed a set of actions items to guide their goal setting in the immediate future. These action items are to:

- Coordinate incentives for participants and private partners to incorporate green infrastructure in development and re-development activities
- Focus on public outreach and getting into schools with messaging on green infrastructure and sustainability
- Take advantage of and promote LG&E energy saving measures and incentives
- Provide a streamlined permitting/licensing process for green buildings as an incentive
- Allow end users to choose, or as a half step know, the method in which their energy is produced

Green Economy - The Green Economy Action Team brainstormed ideas in three categories: education, green workforce development, and green economy. Ideas included:

- Education
 - Create a sustainability career job corps utilizing internships and job shadowing opportunities
 - Use the Cultural Consortium and Arts and Cultural Attractions Council to focus on sustainability education
- Green Workforce Development
 - Hold a green economy showcase / job fair
 - Develop an internship program with local companies
- Green Economy
 - Develop a business to business sustainability mentorship program
 - Create a business resource center that lists green best practices in areas like supply chain and contracting

Tree Canopy and Urban Heat Island - The Tree Canopy and Urban Heat Island Action Team called for a "TREEvolution" to improve the health of our citizens. Their goals include:

- Contribute in any to the launching of a strategic series of plantings throughout the community such as "Love Louisville Trees" upcoming planting events
- Develop a communications campaign that relays the effects and importance of air quality, reduced UHI effect and expansion of a luxuriant Urban Forest, on the health of our citizens
- Stress the emphasis on science and data organization to establish and quantify baseline data, benchmarks, and to tracked change overtime by visibly mapping progress
- Collaborate in any way, with the Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission's draft revisions to the Land Use and Development Code, stressing areas such as a "Tree Protection Ordinance"
- Promote a healthy, compassionate, luxuriant city and to have fun in doing so

Transportation - The Transportation Action Team challenged all attendees to ride TARC at least once, and all Metro Government staff to either ride TARC or carpool at least once a month. This Action Team hopes to develop and communicate a list of sustainable transportation options and implement a carpool system in Louisville. Their long-term goals are to green the Louisville trucking industry and to promote transportation equity across race and class.

Next Steps Following the Summit, the Action Teams will meet on a regular basis and will be coordinated and facilitated by the Louisville Sustainability Council. [Click here](#) to get involved.